



Saguaro National Park News Release

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For Immediate Release

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SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK CELEBRATES NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY BY PULLING BUFFELGRASS IN THE TUCSON MOUNTAINS

Tucson, AZ - Saturday, September 29 is Public Lands Day across the nation. It is a day set aside each year to celebrate land that is publicly owned by the American people and encourage those people to come out and enjoy a day of service to those public lands. PublicLandsDay.org shows 2,105 different sites around the nation that plan to host over 170,000 volunteers, this weekend. You could be one of them.

This year Saguaro National Park is joining forces with Friends of the Ironwood Forest, Friends of Saguaro National Park, Southern Arizona Buffelgrass Coordination Center and many other local conservation groups to spend the morning pulling the most serious threat to our local public lands, buffelgrass. This invasive grass spreads quickly, choking out native vegetation and increasing fire danger in our desert communities.

"This day is the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improved and enhance the public lands Americans enjoy", according to Lahsha Brown, Executive Director of Friends of Ironwood Forest. No experience is necessary, but it is recommended for people 16 years or older. "Everyone can help pull, dig and bag up buffelgrass".

Volunteers will meet at the Red Hills Visitor Center in Saguaro National Park at 7:00am. Plan to bring gloves, water-bottles, sunscreen and a hat. Long sleeves and pants are recommended attire. Event organizers will provide extra water, snacks, tools, freebies and fun for participants.

If you would like to volunteer and spend some time in our beautiful Sonoran Desert on Saturday morning, contact Lahsha Brown at (520) 628-2092 or send an email to lahsha@ironwoodforest.org.

For more information about the event, check out http://ironwoodforest.net/upcoming_events.html

For more information about Public Lands Day, check out <http://www.publiclandsday.org>

For more information about Buffelgrass, check out <http://www.nps.gov/sagu/naturescience/invasive-plants.htm>

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